

Collins, Kathleen

From: Chung, Angela
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:26 PM
Subject: EPA's Decision on Spokane Tribe WQS

Hi OWW,

Some of you may be aware of the recent attention on Region 10's efforts to encourage Washington and Idaho to revise their water quality standards, specifically human health criteria for toxic pollutants, to better align with Oregon's revised criteria and to protect people who consume Pacific NW fish and shellfish.

Given this broader interest, Dan recommended that I inform the office about a decision he signed yesterday that approves the majority of the Spokane Tribe's revised human health criteria, which are based on a fish consumption rate of 865 grams per day and drinking water intake of 4 liters per day. Prior to this action on the Spokane Tribe's submittal, the Umatilla Tribe and the State of Oregon had adopted the most stringent human health criteria in the U.S. We recognize that adopting more stringent criteria raises questions and concerns about implementation from our regulatory partners, permittees, and others, but this action acknowledges the authority of states and tribes to make policy calls that provide a higher level of protection for their waters and associated uses.

Rather than go into more details in this email, Kathleen (who worked on the decision document) and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and/or provide you a copy of the decision. I also heard there may be interest in a future OWW all-staff presentation to hear more about the Region's work with states and tribes on human health criteria revisions. If that's the case, please let me or your UM know.

Thanks and happy holidays!

This message was sent to the R10 OWW Mail Group

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